

Mayor's Message

September 2011

As I have mentioned in past messages, one of my favorite duties as Mayor is to understand what is happening around our City. To do that, I like to see things first hand. You may see me around town in my white and rust colored Civic, looking at a street project or new building construction.

Seeing new projects makes me excited for the improvements that are coming. The Fashion Place Mall is changing almost daily, a new medical building is on the horizon and the Fireclay Transit Oriented Development has new developments underway. State Street has many changes coming. Sales tax revenues for the past few months are up 3% and I am optimistic that they will continue to increase. The road projects are progressing well and our neighborhoods are beautiful.

Lately, however, I have been seeing more and more graffiti as I have been out in our community. It concerns me to see property defaced and the connotation that goes with this type of vandalism is not what we want for our City. I spent several hours one weekend cleaning graffiti from a property I own. It is discouraging to work hard to keep personal property well maintained only to have damage done that must be repaired. We need to work together to prevent this type of activity from happening in Murray. If you are ever in a situation to witness vandalism, please call the police to help them stop the offenders. We have a crew who works to clean up graffiti, but they cannot keep up with the demand right now. Please help us by watching and alerting us so we can stop this problem together.

Another challenge we are facing is from vandals who cut and remove wire from our public facilities. Wire connected to lights in parks, parking lots and even power substations has been stolen recently. The value of the copper wire is very small compared to cost of replacing it. This is a very dangerous practice and has the potential to take the lives of those who do it. Again, your help in reporting unusual behavior is critical to stopping this activity.

On another note, the 10 year anniversary of September 11th is almost here. To help us all remember those who lost their lives, love ones or their health due to this terrible incident, at 11:00 a.m. on that Sunday, sirens will be activated and church bells rung for one minute. Please join the nation in contemplating what this event means to us as a whole.

As you are out and about in our City, I hope you will be watchful and report any unusual activity. We share the goal of keeping our community beautiful, safe and secure.